

**Section 7090**  
(October 2002)

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**MISCELLANEOUS**  
(October 2002)

**7090**

**MEDIA AND INFORMATION CONTACTS**  
(October 2002)

**7090.1**

An incident must anticipate media contact. An Information Officer should be assigned to process incident information and media contacts. The Information Officer is responsible for developing and releasing information, approved by the Incident Commander, about the incident to the news media, to incident personnel, and to other appropriate organizations. Information Officers manage a number of contact points for media and public contact.

**TYPES OF INFORMATION CENTERS**  
(October 2002)

**7090.1.1**

There are several different types of centers. An incident usually has a main Incident Information Center based at a central point, such as the Unit Headquarters or the Incident Base. Information personnel establish other types of centers, with the approval of the Incident Commander, based on the incident's needs.

- **INTERIM INFORMATION CENTER** - Information should contain details about the first report, personnel, crews, equipment, fuel type, current incident status, incident size, conditions, weather factors, cause, etc., for an initial Incident Status Summary (ICS-209). Personnel should relay the current information and ICS-209 to the Incident Information Center just prior to the transition. (See [CDF's Information Handbook Section 0652.1](#))
- **INCIDENT INFORMATION CENTER (IIC)**-The Incident Information Center (IIC) is the main contact location for the media and the public. (See [CDF's Information Handbook 0600, Section 0652.2](#))
- **FIELD INFORMATION CENTER (FIC)** - The FIC is normally located at or near the Incident Base or Incident Command Post for easy media access. The Field Information Center is the primary in-person contact place for the news media. (See [CDF's Information Handbook Section 0652.3](#))
- **COMMUNITY INFORMATION CENTER (CIC)** - The department normally uses a community center as an Incident Information Office when an incident affects a populated area. As an incident becomes more visible and the effects upon a community increase public and media information needs escalate. (See [CDF's Information Handbook Section 0652.3.1](#))

- **SATELLITE INFORMATION CENTER (SIC)** - On larger incidents, one Field Information Center may not be sufficient to accommodate the media and public needs, so Satellite Information Centers (SIC) may be established at base camp locations. ([See CDF's Information Handbook Section 0652.3.2](#))
- **EVACUATION INFORMATION CENTER** - The department is responsible for setting up an Evacuation Information Center anytime the public is displaced by an incident within CDF protection areas. ([See CDF's Information Handbook Section 0652.3.3](#))

## **GENERAL LAWS PERTAINING TO MEDIA**

**7090.1.2**

(October 2002)

The California [Penal Code Section 409.5\(d\)](#) allows media access to scenes of disaster, riot, or civil disturbance but not to crime scenes. However, this statement does not imply that the news media can interfere with incident operations ([see Public Records Act](#)). Properly identified members of the news media should not be restricted from entering locations specified in Section 409.5 of the Penal Code. If entering such a location is hazardous, they should be advised; media access can not be prevented for safety reasons unless their presence would impede CDF by blocking the entrances and exits or disturbing evidence.

**Penal Code 409.5**  
**Penal Code 148.2**  
**Vehicle Code 2801**  
**Civil Code 47**  
**Civil Code 48**

**Penal Code 402**  
**Federal Aviation Regulation 91.137**  
**Public Resource Code 4165**  
**Public Resource Code 4166**  
**California Public Records Act**

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